

PERFORMANCE REPORT

STATE: Alaska

GRANT: W-27-2

STUDY: 20.0

PROJECT TITLE: Fire and Forest Management Planning for Wildlife Habitat Enhancement

AUTHOR: Dale Haggstrom

PERIOD: 1 July 1998–30 June 1999

PROJECT LOCATION: Statewide and Region III: Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, and 26 B & C

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- 1 Work with state, federal, and private entities at the statewide level to plan and coordinate wildland and prescribed fire management efforts to maintain or improve habitat for wildlife.
- 2 Work with state, federal, and private entities within Region III to plan and coordinate fire and forest management efforts to maintain or improve habitat for wildlife.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED:

- 1 Represent the Commissioner on the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (AWFCG) and related committees and work groups (Objective 1).
- 2 Encourage wildland fire planning and suppression decisions that permit fire to resume its natural role of perpetuating diverse, productive ecosystems (Objectives 1 & 2).
- 3 Encourage prescribed burning and other appropriate forestry practices in developed areas where wildland fires must be suppressed to protect people or valued resources (Objectives 1 & 2).

ACTIVITIES ACCOMPLISHED:

- 1 I participated in AWFCG quarterly meetings in Fairbanks on 23 October 1998 and in Anchorage on 26 January 1999 and 5 April 1999. The August 1998 quarterly meeting was not held. I served as AWFCG Chair until 26 January 1999. I also participated in the regularly scheduled monthly AWFCG teleconferences (Objective 1).
- 2 I worked with other AWFCG representatives to consolidate and clarify common elements from the 13 area-specific fire management plans that were originally approved in the 1980s. The amended Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan (AWFCG 1998) was distributed in February 1999 (Objective 1).

- 3 I worked with other AWFCG representatives in late June–early July 1998 and 1999 to evaluate burn conditions and convert Modified Management Option lands to Limited Management Option for the remainder of the respective fire seasons.
- 4 I attended the 23 November 1998 meeting of the AWFCG Fire Research and Application Committee in Anchorage and participated in the Fire Effects Monitoring Workshop at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) - Alaska Fire Service at Ft. Wainwright on 1–3 June 1999 (Objective 1).
- 5 I participated in meetings of the AWFCG Fire Prevention, Education and Awareness Committee in Anchorage on 9 November 1998, 27 January 1999, and 31 March 1999. The major focus of this committee was to develop a FIREWISE Community Action Program. Homeowner Guides and Educators' Packets were printed and distributed in several communities on the Kenai Peninsula at the start of the 1999 fire season (Objective 1).
- 6 I met with other state agency representatives and private individuals in Fairbanks on 15 April 1999 to explore options for funding a fuel hazard reduction program that would help protect communities from wildland fires and provide habitat alterations necessary to maintain productive and diverse wildlife populations (Objectives 2).
- 7 I worked with staff from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) - Division of Forestry (DOF), ADNR - Division of Land (DOL), and ADNR - Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation to review wildland fire protection levels in the Chena and Chatanika River drainages. As a result, protection priority was more narrowly focused on developed areas, creating opportunities for burning in important wildlife habitats near Fairbanks (Objective 2).
- 8 I worked with staff from the ADNR - DOF, ADNR - DOL, and BLM to review wildland fire protection levels in the Mosquito Fork of the Fortymile River. All seemed to substantially agree that most of this area could be changed from Modified and Full Management to Limited Management. However, public contacts were not completed in time to implement the desired changes before the 1999 fire season (Objective 2).

LITERATURE CITED

ALASKA WILDLAND FIRE COORDINATING GROUP. 1998. Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan - Amended October 1998. Unpublished document. Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group: Alaska Department of Natural Resources; Alaska Department of Fish and Game; Bureau of Indian Affairs; Bureau of Land Management; Fish and US Fish and Wildlife Service; US Forest Service; National Park Service, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.; and Chugachmiut, Inc. 61 pp.

SEGMENT PERIOD PROJECT COSTS

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Operating</u>	<u>Total</u>
Planned	29.8	2.0	31.8
Actual	24.5	1.9	26.4
Difference	5.3	0.1	5.4

Explanation: Actual personnel costs were less than planned because I had to spend more time than planned on another project due to a position vacancy. Actual operating costs were less than planned because some of the meetings were held in Fairbanks where I am stationed and other job responsibilities temporarily precluded further participation in AWFCG committees and work groups.

SUBMITTED BY:

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